Oral History of Edward De Silva, 1992 Barlow Lane, February 22, 1992. Interview held at Holy Ghost Hall, Occidental Road, Sebastopol by Arlene Houghton

Arlene: What is your name, address and date of birth?

Ed: Ed De Silva, 1992 Barlow Lane, Sebastopol. (Date of birth) November 19, 1908.

Arlene: Where were you born, Ed?

Ed: Sebastopol.

Arlene: How about your parents?

Ed: Well, (they were) born in Saint George, Portugal.

Arlene: And why did they come here, do you know?

Ed: Well, he (my dad) landed in Bermuda. From Bermuda, he come to California.

Arlene: Do you know why they came over?

Ed: No reason at all. They came over on a trip and decided to stay.

Arlene : And what did they do when they came over? What was his (father's) occupation?

Ed: He was a seed salesman in Portugal.

Me: And then what did he do here?

Ed: He had an apple orchard.

Arlene: Where was the apple orchard located?

Ed: Pleasant Hill District.

Arlene: So right around here?

Ed: Yeah, Sebastopol.

Arlene: Where was it on Pleasant Hill?

Ed: Yeah, that's where I was born, Pleasant Hill District.

Arlene: Were you born right there at home?

Ed: Yeah .

Arlene: How many siblings did you have?

Ed: Eleven.

Arlene: So are you the oldest?

Ed: No, I'm not the oldest. I'm about the seventh, I think. They're gone now. They were in their nineties when they died. We were all close in age. There was only about two years apart.

Arlene: So Tina's (my neighborn, Ernestina De Silva Ameral) about the last? Is she the baby?

Ed: No, there are two others younger than she is.

Arlene: And I assume your mother did not have a job (outside the home because) she had a job?

Ed: Yeah, it was hard in those days.

Arlene: Do you want to tell me a little bit about it?

Ed: We lived in the country, you know. There was no gas, no lights, all was done by wood-stove cooking, and it was...clothes they had to wash by hand. There was no such thing as a washing machine in those days.

Arlene: How about transportation?

Ed: I was horses at one time. Then from there they bought themselves a Model T. Then they went on and bought themselves a better car. That's how we started.

Arlene: I'm going to get into the history of the Holy Ghost Society a little bit. Did a lot of Portuguese come over at the same time, do you think?

Ed: Quite a few, yes, there were quite a few. You get on Barlow Lane, and there was all Portuguese living there. On Barlow Lane yeah, right here in Sebastopol. There were quite a few"Portugees" at the time.

Arlene: And do you know when the Holy Ghost Society started here in Sebastopol?

Ed: It started in a private home in 1906.

Arlene: Do you know where? Whose home?

Ed: On Ragle Road.

Arlene: Whose house was it?

Ed: It was the Ramos home. He's the one who started it in 1906. And then in 1917, they built it here. A wooden building here at the time. This is a new one.

Arlene: Did all the people in the community build it together?

Ed: It was together, yes, mostly together. This building here was with a contractor. But those days, it was everyone had to help.

Arlene: So when was this building built?

Ed: It was 1946, I think, 45 or 46. I'm not quite sure.

Arlene: And can you tell me the purpose of the Holy Ghost Society?

Ed: It was originally started as feeding the poor, see, but it was a group for those who didn't have anything, or something like that, each of them had to donate money or food to feed them.

Arlene: Was it mostly for poor Portuguese people, or for anybody?

Ed: It was anybody. It didn't make a difference who it was.
Arlene: So this was even before the Depression and everything?
Ed: Well, even then they did that. It was hard doing, but they still did it. Everything had to be donated in order to do it.
Arlene: So when people first came over, were there a lot of poor Portuguese and so it was kind of...
Ed: Oh yeah, there was quite a few of them here.
Arlene: So it was to help them, but to help everybody?
Ed: Yeah, everybody had to help.
Arlene: So what other purposes were there for the Holy Ghost Society?
Ed: It's more of a religion thing. They elect a queen (for the queen parade) Every year they do that and then that's the way it goes.
Arlene: Do you want to tell me about the festival because I have taken pictures at your parade, some of your queens.
When is that held, what time of year?
Ed: It's in June.
Arlene: And I understand that it's pretty much the same (date) for each Holy Ghost Hall and it's different for all the different Holy Ghost Halls?
Ed: Well, there's Sausalito, Novato, Petaluma, Fort Bragg and Vallejo.
Arlene: So they all take turns, each one?
Ed: They take turns and then attend each one of them. See we go to Sausalito and Petaluma and they come here too.
Arlene: Do you want to tell me about the purpose of the parade?
Ed: Well, it's for the public to see what we are doing, that's all.
Arlene: Well, I was told it was about Queen Isabella.
Ed: Yeah, well, at that time when it all started with Queen Isabella, there was a famine back there, that's when she sold all her jewels to feed all the people. That's what all started it.
Arlene : Where did the baby queen idea come from?
Ed: Well, it's something that they all started. There was such a thing as a baby queen, but they all thought they ought to have a baby queen at the same time, see (in this country)
Arlene: So were there parades over in Portugal too?

Ed: The same thing, yeah. They have the same as they have here.
Arlene: So they don't have baby queens there too, do they?
Ed: Yeah, they have baby queens there too. They did almost the same thing there, but they do it a little stronger than we do. I mean to say they take a little longer than we do.
Arlene: You mean the parade is bigger and takes longer?
Ed: Yeah.
Arlene: Well, I understand, that you start here and you go over to the Catholic church?
Ed: Yeah, to crown the queen, at St. Sebastian's. Then they crown the queen for the year. Every year they have a new one.
Arlene: And then you come back here again, for the festa?
Ed: Yeah, we come back here for the feeding.
Arlene: Do you want to tell me a little about the festa?
Ed: Well, we feed an average of about 1-2,000 (people).
Arlene: And what is the food?
Ed: The food is meat and well,it's sopa.
Arlene: And the sopa is made of meat and what else is in it?
Ed: Meat and bread.
Arlene: But isn't there a bakery that makes special (bread)?
Ed: No, we buy the French bread from Santa Rosa.
Arlene: But I thought the bread was a special bread?
Ed: Well, Portuguese bread is what you call a sweet bread. It's made in San Jose. We get it from there, because we can't make it here. It's too much work.
Arlene: So you feed around 1,000 people from these different areas all over the state?
Ed: Well, sometimes we got more than that. Yeah.
Arlene: Is that all free?
Ed: No, we don't charge nothing. We ask for donations. Cattlemen donate a cow, and different ones donate the money and different things.
Arlene: Can you tell me a little bit, anything else about the Holy Ghost Hall and Holy Ghost Society? Is the hall used now for other purposes?
Ed: Well, we rent the hall to anyone who wants to use it, like on Sunday there was a wedding here. So we rent it out to them. To anyone who wants to use it.

Arlene: And the language too. Can I ask what kind of language was spoken when they came over?

Ed: Oh, there are all kinds of languages. We've got Italian There's all kinds of people that come here.

Arlene: But is there a Portuguese language?

Ed: Well there's like, I can understand Portuguese, but I can't speak it. It's something that the folks didn't believe in for you to learn.

Arlene: They didn't want you to learn?

Ed: No. Dad was the type that when my mother and dad talked business they talked in Portuguese so we didn't know what they were talking about.

Arlene: So they had a secret language(joking).

Ed: In those days, it was all money talk, that's what it is. It's exchange of money and different things, you know.

Arlene: So do you think they wanted you to learn English?

Ed: No, cause Dad didn't believe we ever could use a foreign language here. He was wrong, cause I know I was taking a Spanish course in high school and he made me quit. Cause he didn't want me taking any foreign languages. Well, if I had learned Spanish, I would understand Portuguese too. He didn't want me to.

Arlene: My neighbor who was Portuguese spoke Spanish.

Ed: Well, the thing is, a lot of things I've learned, I've heard somebody talk and I can make it out, what they are saying. But like for me to have a conversation with a Portuguese guy, I couldn't do it.

Arlene: Well, somebody told me that a lot of the Petaluma Portuguese still speak Portuguese.

Ed: They still speak Portuguese there quite a bit. Most of them do.

Arlene: But not here?

Ed: Well, here too. There's quite a few of them that can talk Portuguese. But when they come here, there's a group that talks it. And there's groups that can't. They're Portuguese and can't understand Portuguese. It's like here, it's the same thing. It's like with me. I can understand what they are saying, but to have a conversation with them, I can't do it.

Cause I didn't learn to talk that language. It's mostly Latin or Spanish. If you can understand Spanish, you can understand Portuguese too. And Italian too.

Arlene: Sure, it's the romance languages.

Ed: It's more on the Latin.

Arlene: Now, when you were little, I would imagine the Holy Ghost Hall was a place to socialize too. Was it a place where you would sometimes come and meet with other people?

Ed: Oh yeah, they'd meet quite a bit. Like with us, we meet but once a year - once a month. We have a Director's meeting, There's officers and all because this all had to be turned in to the state.

Arlene: So, is this a non-profit?

Ed: Non-profit, yes, non-profit. We can allow so much money and that's it. Like there's repairs and something like that. Oh, I think they allow you like $5,000 that's about all.

Arlene: So when you were younger, I'm trying to find out about the socialization a little bit - did most of your friends come from the Portuguese community, or did you just socialize with everybody in town?

Ed: Oh, they come from all over all parts. It didn't make any difference.

Arlene: Where did you go to school?

Ed: Pleasant Hill, then Analy.

Arlene: High school?

Ed: Yeah, I graduated from Analy in 1927. It was an old building there at that time.

Arlene: It wasn't the same one?

Ed: Oh, no it was an old wooden building.

Arlene: Well, I want to find out about this. Tell me about the Pleasant Hill School.

Ed: It's still there.

Arlene: Oh, the little one-or two-room school house?

Ed: No, it's you know where the Pleasant Hill Cemetery is? Well, you know that school house?

Arlene: Yeah, I do.

Ed: Well, there's four rooms in there. There's four rooms, yeah. That's where I graduated from.

Arlene: How big was the school then? How many kids?
Ed: Well, at the time I was going there, it was two rooms. Then when people started moving into Sebastopol, it started growing and growing so they had to make two more extra rooms.
Arlene: So tell me what the town was then when you were little. What did it look like?
Ed: Well, it didn't have the desks like we have today. And most kids were barefoot, with no shoes.
Arlene: And you lived right there?
Ed: Oh yeah, about a mile from there.
Arlene: And so you had two teachers then in the school?
Ed: There was two at that time, and then finally we had three. When I got into the 8th grade, we had four teachers then.
Arlene: So you went all the way into the 8th grade there?
Ed: There and then graduated from Analy High School.
Arlene: So what did the town look like at the time? How big was it when you were younger?
Ed: Well, in 1903 all the streets were dirt. There was no such thing as...And I don't know if you know where Peas Drug Store is.
Arlene: Is it still there? It's not there any more is it?
Ed: Well, they moved out. It was on the corner. Well, that was where the water tank was that watered streets in Sebastopol. It was an all-wooden building. Then when the earthquake come in 1906, a lot of those buildings were destroyed.
Arlene: Now, was Tina's house there in 1906? (my neighbpr)
Ed: Oh, yeah, it was 1800 and something.
Arlene: So mine was built the same time as hers was.
Ed: But your house is bigger now than it was before. It was about the size of Tina's and Janette's. (Litchfield Avenue, bottom, Queen Ann Victorians). About the same contractor. I heard (he) built the same houses there at the time.
Arlene: So our houses went through the earthquake?
Ed: Yeah, uh huh.
Arlene: I wonder why if Main Street was leveled why our houses escaped it. I heard that most of Main Street came down in the

earthquake.

Ed: Well, there wasn't too much damage, but on Main Street they had the street cars at the time. Course which, there was moving of the tracks that had to change quite a bit. I don't remember too much about it.

Arlene: Yeah, cause you were born after the earthquake.

Ed: I was 1908, see, but the way I was told and the pictures I've seen, it moved a little bit and that's about all. But the buildings and the fire too.

Arlene: Did you have a fire too (Sebastopol) after the earthquake? How far did it go?

Ed: Yeah, not too far. It's homes that either were cooking and had wood in the stove and the fire was burning and nobody dared to go into the house. A lot of the houses were just knocked off the foundations. Well, it happened all over around here too. It went all through here to Forestville, the earthquake did. And it hit Point Reyes and Bolinas, it was worse there.

Arlene: Now how about the house you were born in. Was that still standing after the earthquake too?

Ed: No, dad moved there in 1908. He just built it when he bought the ranch.

Arlene: Is your house still there?

Ed: No, it was burnt down.

Arlene: So the Portuguese lived all over in Sebastopol? Somebody told me about Portuguese Hill?

Ed: It's Barlow Lane, they called it. Cause there was more (Portuguese) there than any place. See, all the ones in this section here was more Portuguese living here than any other place. And it's kind of a hill up there and called "Portugee Hill". It's slang.

This is the Second Interview with Ed de Silva held at his home at 1992 Barlow Lane in Sebastopol on March 3, 1992 by Arlene Houghton

Ed: (In Portugal they have) longer, festas over a week, and they have a bullfight, which we don't have here. It makes a difference. As far as our building here was built in 1910. The first one. It was destroyed by fire in 1947. And the other one was rebuilt then in 1949.

Arlene: Some of the questions I didn't get before...were your parents' names.

Ed: Vasco De Silva and Marianne

Arlene: And your spouse's name?

Ed: Betty.

Arlene: And your children?

Ed: No children, no wife either. No, I'm by myself. I was married.

Arlene: Do you remember your grandparents' names?

Ed: No, they were all in Bermuda. I never was in Bermuda. I was born here. My mother, she was a Foster. Her maiden name was Foster.

Arlene: So she was not Portuguese?

Ed: She was Portuguese, yes.

Arlene: But her name was Foster? So she probably took the name?

Ed: Yeah.

Arlene: And we didn't get your occupation.

Ed: I was foreman here, in this cannery here (on Barlow Lane).

Arlene: WHat was it named?

Ed: Silviera and O'Connell

Arlene: Was that Portuguese?

Ed: Well, he (Silviera) was Portuguese, but Jack O'Connell is Irish. But if you've ever seen an Irish and Portugee together, why...

Arlene: That must have been something.

Ed: No, they got along good. Yeah, they got along good. There were little disputes once in a while, but otherwise they started in 1942 and went until they sold out in 1987. He had to sell out, He, Jack, couldn't handle it himself and Carl had cancer, and he knew he had only six months to live - that's all they give him, see.

Arlene: So you were foreman right here, that was convenient.

Ed: When I first started working here, I didn't live here. I lived in town, see.

Arlene: Where did you live?

Ed: Do you know where the undertaker's parlor is? Sorenson in Sebastopol, on Main Street. That's where I lived when I was first married.

Arlene: And you spoke about the founder of the Hall. Ramos. How do you spell his name?

Ed: It's R A M O S.

Arlene: Can you tell me anything about him?

Ed: He was born and raised in Portugal, Azore Islands, and he's

the one back then you know being young, he had seen all of this and he wanted to start this one in Sebastopol when he come to Sebastopol.

Arlene: Do you know anything else about him?

Ed: See, all he was, he was an apple farmer. That's what they come here for, either being an apple farmer or worker or something like that. But mostly they are fishermen, most Portuguese are fishermen But Ramos, when he come here, that's how he started, at his home place. And then in 1911 the law required then, to start anything like this, you had to have a charter. So you have to have a vice president, directors and all. So they had started that in 1911. That's the first queen they had in 1911. See, I've got all the pictures of the queens over at the hall. It's my hobby, getting them all. I was the one that started it.

Arlene: So do you know anything else about Ramos?

Ed: No, I knew his son, but that's all I knew. And of course, his wife was Carl Silviera's aunt, that's how I knew her. But she died awfully young.

Arlene: Did you know his first name?

Ed: His first name was George.

Arlene: And the wife's name?

Ed: I don't know. I think it was Isabelle. I'm quite sure it was Isabelle.

Arlene: So she died pretty young. But by that time the hall was going?

Ed: Yeah, but then they decided to elect president, vice president, and directors and all. See the law required that you had to have no less than six directors.

Arlene: So you've been a director haven't you?

Ed: I've been president for seventeen years. That's what they gave me when I retired (gesturing to a present) I quit. It was too much for me.

Arlene: So are you on the board of directors now?

Ed: Yeah, well we're going to have a meeting Thursday night. We have one once a month.

Arlene: Can you describe the parade for me - in June - the whole thing from start to finish?

Ed: Well, you mean how?

Arlene: What it looks like, who is in it?

Ed: Well, there's people that come over, who come to our doings cause we are close, see all of them (He showed me a list of communities who come to this area for the parade). But we don't go to all of them, see. We go to Sausalito, Novato, Petaluma and Fort Bragg.

Arlene: So they all come here too?

Ed: They all come here too. We go there too, and they come here. So we take our queen, that is appointed by the president. We do it here. Other places they draw from the hat. It's the president that picks his own queen, and baby queen also.

Arlene: So what is the date of the parade here?

Ed: I think JUne the 7th. It's seven weeks after Easter.

Arlene: And is it on a Saturday or a Sunday?

Ed: It's on a Sunday.

Arlene: And is there a name for the parade?

Ed: No name, We just call it the queen parade, that's all.

Arlene: And it's the Spring festival. I understand in Portugal, there's a spring and a fall festival.

Ed: No, we just have it here (Spring). Of course, we have an auction to pay the cost of the thing. That's before the parade. I think it's three weeks before the festival.

Arlene: And I understand there is a silver crown with a dove, do you want to tell me the significance of the silver crown?

Ed: Well, it's...why the crown, is that years ago, Queen Isabella had a crown of her own. See, each Portuguese group has a different kind of crown, see.

Arlene: Oh, they all have a different one?

Ed: Oh, yeah, you can pick what you want, see. They got different shapes.

Arlene: Now, did you get yours from Portugal?

Ed: Yes, but Ramos got it from Portugal.

Arlene: Ah, ha, and the queen wears it. Does the baby queen wear a different one?

Ed: Well, she has a small one.

Arlene: Is there any age for the baby queen?

Ed: Well, usually if she is able to walk by herself. Usually we like to have them if we can, no younger than seven, at least.

Of course, some girls, you know at seven years old are a pretty good size, see. They want to be baby queen, see. And if they do, and if the mother is interested, we would have it done.

Arlene: In the parade, when I went to see the parade, I noticed that there was a band.

Ed: Yeah, we order a band.

Arlene: From the high schools?

Ed: Well, usually, now we are getting them from the high schools cause the kids want extra money, you know, and it would help us instead of getting a band from San Jose and all over, you can give it to the high school here, cause, we started that two years ago. We tried that a long time ago, but the teacher wouldn't go for it.

Arlene: So does the band go first, or last?

Ed: The band goes first, yeah.

Arlene: And then other people with their queens, or your queen?

Ed: Well, then all queens will follow the band. At first, like, when we have ours, we have either Sausalito or Petaluma first, then ours are the last, O.K.. When we go to church. Then when we get out of church, our queen is the first one.

Arlene: Why is that?

Ed: Because, to lead the rest of the queens back to the hall.

Arlene: And then everybody from the Holy Ghost Society, are they in the parade too?

Ed: Well, a lot of them do march in the parade, yeah.

Arlene: So anybody who wants to be in, can be in it?

Ed: Yeah, it doesn't make any difference. You can be Japanese or anything.

Arlene: And do you decorate the hall?

Ed: We rent the hall, yes. Why we rent it is count of the insurance. We have to have insurance for the building and fire insurance and everything comes up to about $7,000 a year and that's what keeps us a little bit ahead. But we only allow so much. Otherwise, we've got to use it for improving the hall. Course, we had it painted, and we had a new roof put in and all that. That all costs money.

Arlene: And another thing, for the parade, do you decorate the hall?

Ed: Not too much, no.

Arlene: Cause I read there was read and white crepe paper.

Ed: Yeah, well, they use that, yeah.

Arlene: Do you know what the significance of the red and white are?
Ed: No, it's just a color that they picked. You can put pink . That has nothing to do with it.
Arlene: Can you describe the clothing that the queens wear?
Ed: Mostly satin, white satin. It could be pink, it doesn't make any difference.
Arlene: I noticed they wore capes.
Ed: They wear capes, yeah. We furnish that. It runs up to about $2-3,000.
Arlene: And so you keep the capes every year?
Ed: We keep the capes every year, but about every 4 years we get a new one, because wear and tear, you know. Oh one girl doesn't like that and you have to satisfy them, you know.
Arlene: What do you do with the old ones?
Ed: We usually give them to someone for something else they want to use it for.
Arlene: So the girls can wear anything, but they are gowns?
Ed: They furnish their own clothes.
Arlene: And then they have a crown and a cape. Doesn't the cape have ermine on it?
Ed: Oh, yes.
Arlene: Any particular reason for this.
Ed: No, each lodge has their cape different. We might have a dove or a crown on it, see, and something else.
Arlene: So what does yours have on it?
Ed: I think this year's a crown, I'm quite sure. I forgot. I see it every day.
Arlene: And what does your crown have on it?
Ed: It's silver with the dove up above.
Arlene: And I want you to describe, because you have lots of experience with this, the sopa. How do you make the sopa?
Ed: It's with spices. This book tells you here (he gave it to me) It's about the same thing. But you have to boil your meat.
Arlene: And it's beef?
Ed: Yeah, and then your cows. Like if it's here, it takes about 5-6 cows for feeding the crowd.
Arlene: For 2,000 people?

Ed: Yeah, and you use your spices and everything else, and your cinnamon and everything else.

Arlene: And so that's all that's in it? Beef and water and spices and cinnamon and that's it?

Ed: And French bread. And then you soak your French bread with the sopa. To me, I don't go for it. I don't like it at all. The spices you see. It makes me sick, I don't know why, but I can't abide the spices, I never could.

Arlene: The donors for the Festa, how do you get the donors?

Ed: Well, the cows, you see, we go to the person who has cows around here. And each one (Most of them, not all of them, but some) will give a cow. Others will give a calf or something like that. But most of them here we've got quite a few of them around here that gives cows. Most dairies are moving away from here, you know. We have to go to Petaluma and Benicia and all over to get a cow. A lot of those Portuguese, they believe in it so great they might give a cow to each person, see.

Arlene: Well, how do you get the bread?

Ed: Well, we get the bread from the Santa Rosa Bakery.

Arlene: How do you get donors for the bread? Do you just ask people to donate money?

Ed: What's that, for the bread? Well, it's a donation, cept we go round, see. We go round from house to house for a donation.

Arlene: Do you phone - the treasurer?

Ed: Well, it doesn't make any difference who does it. There's Italians, always come here and they all want to belong to it.

Arlene: So anybody can belong to it?

Ed: Well, it takes ten dollars. Then you get free French bread, I mean sweet bread. But you are a member. You can pick up just like the rest of them can.

Arlene: O.K., I was going to ask how you became a member of the Holy Ghost Society?

Ed: It's through my mother and father. See, Tina (sister) was our queen in 33. My mother and dad both believed in it. Heck, during the Depression, you couldn't give too much. But they gave something. But when they'd go to auction what they'd give, they'd buy it back. They won't let you take it home. They wouldn't let you take it home, cause they'd bid before you. Like my dad and mother gave a rooster and hen, that's all they could afford. But for you or I or anyone else to buy it, we couldn't buy it, cause dad

would bid higher than that. That's their donation, see. Nowadays, a lot of them right today will give you $10, Some $25, some $100 and Best and Feaks is one of them, Ed Herring.

Arlene: I wanted to ask you about the transient's camp at Handy's Corner and Pellini Camp. Can you tell me about feeding them?

Ed: Well, the thing is right now what we do, we send it over to Santa Rosa, well, where they feed the homeless. It's a Catholic place over there. Well, what we have left over, like bread and sopas and all, we take it over there, see, and give it to them. Course we do have some left over, quite a bit of it. And they do go 100% for it, in fact they wait for it. That's why we take it over there. It used to be Pellini's camp and all the places we used to go there, but not anymore, because it's different people that moved in there. And it's altogether different. And the camp up there, Handy's Camp, well it's no more there anymore, see. But here they can feed more people there (Santa Rosa). And I'm telling you, some of the people you meet there, it's really sad, it is, especially so many kids and that's what hurts. And most of those guys I don't think want to work either.

Arlene: But I think those with families, don't you think they are not there by choice?

Ed: Well, they live in a home, no question about it. But they get a free meal every day there. And a lot of them don't have any homes either, so they go there and eat. And well, I think you can go there around 11 o'clock, I think it is, and you can see all around the place, they are waiting for them to open up to eat, see and it makes it tough. But what hurts is when you see lots of kids.

Arlene: I wanted to ask you more though about the Depression here, and about Pellini Camp.

Ed: Well, when the Depression hit, it hit everybody. It didn't just hit the camps, it hit everybody. Cause I can remember my dad, heck, we had a 30-acre place. My dad, us kids picking the apples and hauling it into town for shipping, and all that stuff and when we got the returns back, dad was $.09 in the red a box. What we had to do, we had to go out and pick prunes and hops in those days, we had a lot of hops, we'd pick hops, to feed the kids, to feed ourselves.

Arlene: So were there a lot of transients around here then?
Ed: No, it wasn't so much. Everybody was working then. Course there wasn't so many people either. But there were a lot of people working. But when the farmers weren't working, they couldn't hire the guys.
Arlene: But George Mendoza said that at one point you slaughtered 18 cows to go over to feed the people at Pellini's and Handy's.
Ed: Well, yeah, they used to butcher the cows and get the meat, give the meat. They wouldn't cook it, but they'd give us a big roast, see. And we used to do that when I was the president, see. When a guy gave us a cow, we'd give him a roast back.
Arlene: To the poor people you mean? Or to the person who donated it?
Ed: And we used to do that when I was the president. But when you go to give it to them, they'd have so much meat themselves, that they couldn't even put it in the Fridgidare, so we quit that. Now we give them a bottle of whiskey, or whatever they want, and two boxes of apples. Because as far as them needing it is concerned, cause I know that I went to one of the places, and they weren't home and I knew they had a Fridgidare downstairs and it was so packed, I couldn't even put it in there. I had to take it back home again.
Arlene: But how about the poor during the Depression? Did you feed a lot of the poor during the Depression?
Ed: Oh yeah, there was a lot of them we fed. See, the way we had to do it too. This person donates to us and we would have to give it to someone else, see, that's how we do it, to help other people. They help us, we help somebody else. But if we didn't get a free cow, we couldn't give it away. Or could we feed the people either. But each dairy, you can count on it, you've got a cow for next year, they'll even tell you. All they want you to tell them, is what day you are going to pick that cow up, see, they'll have that cow ready for you. Cause one Portuguese there in Petaluma, he did the cow every year. Well, his wife got mad and said, "well, since he gives a cow every year, I'm going to give one too". So they give two instead of one. When we went to pick up that cow, we came back with two, see. And he didn't say anything - well, that's her cow too, he said.

That's all he said. See, they believe in it so strong, see. If it was something like they were throwing away something, but they're not, they think they are helping them.

Arlene: It's like tithing at church, the same thing.

Ed: Oh, yeah, and they come to dinner. But there's one thing about them too. We feed about 330 at a time. Of course, we have to set the table about 6-7 times. But if one of the guys gives a cow and he doesn't get into that feeding, he don't care, he just waits like the rest of them, he said, He gives a cow, but he still can wait.

Arlene: So they don't get preferential treatment?

Ed: No, none, they're all the same, everybody is the same. Petaluma got their own friends, and that's not fair, but we don't. And of course, when they go to the church and they come back to eat, the queen has to release the dove, cause the dove is given to them.

Arlene: You didn't tell me about that. A real-live dove is given to them? By who?

Ed: A party that raises them. There's parties in Petaluma that raise the doves for the hall, white doves, have to be a white dove. And they release it at the hall. That dove will go home.

ARlene: What is the significance of the dove?

Ed: It's for peace, that's what it is. The kind of dove brought branches to have peace, that's what it is.

Arlene: Can you think of anything else in Sebastopol history and American history that (affected) the Holy Ghost Hall, like World War I and II.

Ed: Well, I had brothers that went to the First World War and I had two of them that went to the first and four of them that went this time.

Arlene: So there were a lot of Portuguese people that went to the wars. Was there anything special at the hall during this time?

Ed: During the war, they kinda had to stop it count of the war. see. I think they stopped it four years ago, that four years they had that war, they stopped it, they didn't have anything. It wasn't fair, see, because some of the boys couldn't go because they were disabled or something like that and the able ones went and it's not fair that you can celebrate and they're out there.

Arlene: So, during Vietnam they stopped during the whole time?
Ed: Yeah.
Arlene: And then after the war is over, do you celebrate then?
Ed; Well, we have the same thing, but nothing special about it.
Arlene: And in the article I was given by John Aguirre about the winter celebration, Epiphany - that Portuguese celebrate Epiphany on January 6, New Year's Day - How do you celebrate that?
Ed: Well, we don't do that here.
Arlene: But in your own home is it celebrated? How is it celebrated?
Ed: Yeah, well what they do is they have a prayer. Then they have a little snack to each and talk about anything you want to talk about. It's a visit. Like you were going to a house to visit - like you come here to visit.
Arlene: Are presents exchanged?
Ed: No, nothing's exchanged. All they do is to have coffee and donuts or coffee and cookies or some things like that. Just to talk, that's what it is.
Arlene: And (the article) it said something about the patron saints of the towns. Do you have a patron saint of Sebastopol?
Ed: I don't remember.
Arlene: Cause it says, the fall festival honors the patron saint and gives thanks for the harvest. I know you don't have a fall festival in Sebastopol. Maybe you don't have a patron saint of Sebastopol.
Ed: No, I don't think so, no. But some other place might have it. Right now, of all the lodges around here, Gustine is one of the biggest. There's around, average around 80-90 cows.
Arlene: Where's Gustine?
ed: It's way down South.
Arlene: 90 cows for a festival?
Ed: Yeah, well, they don't kill them all. They auction them off cause they feed so many people there too, see. And it's quite a few, all the lodges go to Gustine. We're invited to go, but it's just too far. And a lot of times the queen can't go cause it's too far and most girls who are queens are in school. See June Trigeiro, her daughter was our queen last year. Course, she's a Stubb. She was married before. In fact,

I just put the pictures up yesterday. I got all of them. This year we haven't got started. The president has to tell us who the queen will be, see. I don't know either. He gave a hint, see (John Aguirre). He took over when I... He didn't want to do it, but I told him I just didn't want to do it, it was just too much.

Arlene: I read an article that said that a lot of(Portuguese) changed their (last) names.

Ed: Well, a lot of them did because they couldn't come to California, like my dad. My dad on his baptism paper, I've got it in my pocket here. See, in order to get my mom from Bermuda (to) here, my mother had to go under a different name, because dad had to serve in the army there for two years before he could leave. And my dad didn't want to go into the service.

Arlene: So she came by her name?

Ed: No, she picked her uncle.

Arlene: Oh, because he was over here?

Ed: Yeah, course it's in Latin, but see, it's her name.

Arlene: Oh, so that's why it's Foster and Tina, that's...

Ed: That's our godmother.

Arlene: And that's who Tina is named after (his sister)

Ed: Yeah, that was my mother's brother. He had a dairy here in Bolinas. Ernestina was named after them. And Eduardem. That's in Latin. And in order to get my mother here, that's why dad had to change my mother's name, see.

Arlene: So you mother's name is Marianna, Maria Anna?

Ed: Yeah.

Arlene: D'Azaveda D'Avila?

Ed: In order to get her here, and then for my dad to get here, he came in a cattle boat to get here. Otherwise, you couldn't leave there. Course my mother and dad at that time had five kids and to get them all here you know this is what they had to do. But if they didn't put her in a false name, he couldn't get her here. It was impossible cause they would stop him. Cause you get a boat there from Bermuda, and that's owned by the British. See, back there, you can't own a place there. The government would let you have ten acres,b ut it's leased to you. What crop you raised, you give half to the government, and half to yourself.

Arlene: So that's why (your family) came here. Cause they could have their own land?

Ed: Well, dad thought there was more money here in this country cause my mother's brother said money was growing in trees. So I guess dad thought, oh you could pick money from the trees, I don't know. But dad and mother went back, twice. And dad wanted to stay but my mother, no.

Arlene: Your dad wanted to stay in Bermuda, but your mother wanted to come back here?

Ed: And mother said no, no way. Well, she liked California anyway. Cause to her, everything was free here. You could do what you wanted to do. Back there you can't, see. You can't own anything. And his place, it was two miles from Hamilton, two miles, that's the capitol of Bermuda. And that's where he traded there. And he was raising onions, seeds easter lilies. That's where it started, in Portugal. That's how we got the seeds over here too.

Me: Oh, LILLY, the seed company?

Ed: Yeah, he was a salesman. And he controlled all the seeds and he was making good money there. Dad if he stayed there, I think he would be sitting on top of the world, but mom didn't like it. When they come over here, see. They come on a visit, see. Well, first they went to Occidental cause he had a brother there, another brother by the name of Oliver, but mother didn't like Occidental at all. But one day she went through Sebastopol and that's where she wanted to live - Sebastopol. So my dad thought, well, she's one of the bosses too. When he bought the, course there was nothing on the place there, no trees or nothing. Wooden place, that's all there was. He cleaned that all up and planted all the trees. And when he planted all the trees, he planted berries. So before the apples get ripe, he had something to sell or to eat.

Arlene: Did you know my place when it was a berry farm?

Ed: It was Walter Berry's.

Arlene: That was the name of it?

Ed: Berry used to own it at one time.

Arlene: Our house (734 Litchfield Ave.)

Ed: By the name of Berry.

Arlene: I thought he grew berries?
Ed: Well, his name was Walter Berry. He planted berries there.
Arlene: Did you know our house when it was five acres?
Ed: Yeah.
Arlene: It went all the way up the street.
Ed: It went up to High Street.
Arlene: But it used to be five acres, didn't it?
Ed: Well, the houses above it, there was none there.
Arlene: All the houses?
Ed: Yeah, none there. That was Berry's place where he had berries.
Arlene: Can you tell me a little about it?
Ed: Yeah, he's the one who built it.
Arlene: Oh, I thought someone else came in and built it?
Ed: He had it done.
following is more discussion on the house on Litchfield.
Later...
Ed: it's the president who elects the baby queen and of course like the baby queen, we copied it from what they did, see. What the baby queen is for, why I don't know either. It's just a lot of trouble, I'll tell you that, cause you've got to have the robe for them and you've gotta have the girl that goes with it too you know, and everything else too, you know. You can keep that (paper about Portuguese community). The dates on that are not right, but they do have it all the time at the same thing. We could go to any of those, but it's too far. You've gotta use your own money. The lodge won't give you any and it's all expenses. So you've gotta pay for the queen trip too and everything else too, see. And going to Gustine and coming right back the same day (is impossible). So you've got to stay (overnight) - a hotel or something like that. Like we're going to Fort Bragg, the same thing. Course we allow the queen $200 when we are going to Fort Bragg, cause she has to stay overnight, see. And we allow her $200 to stay overnight. And it doesn't cost her that much, but it doesn't make any difference. Her mother and father goes too. Course they can go to the hall there and eat there.
Arlene: Yeah, but not breakfast.

Ed: They do, yeah. We're the only one that don't. We did at one time, but then it didn't work. The first thing too, we didn't have the help. Fort Bragg has nice help, all mostly Portuguese too. Around here most of the families, the kids don't want to go to it. So what they do, the old-timers have to help. It's either George Mendoza, or John (Aguirre) and I that clean the hall every time. Nobody else cleans it. And we're the ones that have to save the - whoever wants it. We have to be there to give the stuff when we rent the hall. We have everything there for them to use if they want to use it. We have to give it to them, you know. We have to spend our time there showing them the hall the way they want it. We are trying to get younger kids in.